

BOROUGH OF TOTNES



11/12/64

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1964

MOIRA McQUAID, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (I) D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

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TOTNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report has been drawn up in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health Circular 1/65.

The Report shows that health in the Borough was satisfactorily maintained in 1964 and that there was no serious outbreak of illness. The birth and death rates are consistent with those in a population comprising a large number of elderly people. The main causes of death were heart disease (59%) and cancer (16%)

Progress towards better hygienic practices in food premises is slow and will only gain momentum if and when members of the general public become better educated in this respect and demand of their shopkeepers improved hygiene.

It is gratifying to record that considerable progress has been achieved with regard to housing for elderly folk.

I would like to record my appreciation of all the help and co-operation accorded to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. To all members of my Staff also go my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Moirra McQuaid.

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Councillor W.C. Bennett.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor the Rev. J.E. Mason.

and

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Councillor Mrs H.M. Sargent.

ALDERMEN

D.W. Mitchell, J.P.

Mrs L.B. Gray.

COUNCILLORS

Mrs G.P. Dunwoody.

J.F. FitzGerald.

F.W. Foster-Turner.

Mrs D.M.E. Heal.

P.A.C. Heal.

E.C. Horne.

A.G. Phillips.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Miss W.J. Taylor.

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C.R. Irish, A.R.S.H.,

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS

Area	1,421 acres.
Number of inhabited houses	1,888
Dwellings owned by the council (31st March 1964)	501
Council dwellings per 1,000 population	90.9
Rateable value (1st April 1964)	£202,689
Estimated product of ld. rate	£820
Population at 1961 census	5,502
Estimated mid-year population (June 1964)	5,580

Births

Live births (35 males and 20 females)	55
Illegitimate births (2 males and 1 female)	3
Illegitimacy rate	5.45%
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	9.85
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 population	11.73
Birth rate for England and Wales	18.4
Still births (1 male and 2 females)	3

Infant Mortality

Total infant deaths	1
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	18.18
Rate for England and Wales	20.0

Maternal Mortality (Including Abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

Deaths

Total deaths (41 males and 58 females)	99
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	17.74
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	8.87
Death rate for England and Wales	11.3

<u>Classification of Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	13	18
Coronary disease, angina	9	3	12
Other heart disease	11	14	25
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	8	11
All other accidents	1	-	1
Total	41	58	99

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals

There are two hospitals in the town. The Totnes and District Hospital is a general practitioner hospital and has 24 beds. Broomborough Hospital has 135 beds for chronic cases. It has a maternity wing with 13 beds and cots; this unit serves a wide area outside the town. There are also 43 beds available for residential cases under Part III of the National Assistance Act.

2. County Council Health Services

Under the National Health Services Act 1946, the County Council provides the following services:-

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home help services and the care of persons suffering from illness or mental disorders, and the after care of such persons.

Two district nurse/midwives work in the district together with a health visitor and a nursing assistant. A child welfare clinic is held on the first, third and fifth Monday in the month at the Borough Park Clinic and the health visitor for the area is in attendance. The home-help service is provided by the County Council. A chiropody service has been made available for the handicapped, the aged and expectant mothers. The ambulance service is operated by voluntary organisations. A meals on wheels service is provided by the W.V.S.

3. Laboratory Services

Bacteriological examination of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

4. Mass Miniature Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Totnes on the 23rd - 26th November 1964. A total of 615 persons were seen, 353 males and 262 females. No new cases of tuberculosis were discovered by the unit but one case of bronchitis and emphysema and one case of acquired cardiovascular disease were discovered.

By the end of the year arrangements were well in hand for the introduction in 1965 of a fortnightly visit to Totnes and certain other large towns by the unit.

5. Home Help Service

The full-time home help organiser who is responsible for the service in the town has her office at 14, Midvale Road, Paignton, but she has the use of an office in the Municipal Offices when she visits Totnes each week.

This service provides essential domestic help in cases of maternity,

sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity. It is not free, but those unable to pay the full charges are assessed according to their means. Now that this service has really got established there is an ever increasing demand for home helps from the aged and infirm.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Diseases notified during the year

Ten notifications were made during the year as follows:-

Measles	4
Dysentery	5
Respiratory tuberculosis	1

One of the cases of dysentery was a female employed at the Bacon Factory and she was suspended from work until three negative results of samples had been received. Two of the cases of dysentery occurred in separate families in the town and were kept under surveillance until three negative results were obtained. The fourth case was a patient in Broomborough Hospital who was barrier-nursed on the ward. The single case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in a man of 44 years who was admitted to Hawkmoor Hospital for treatment.

2. Infectious Diseases

The incidence of infectious diseases was slight. While modern preventive methods have, to a large extent, eliminated the serious infectious diseases such as smallpox and diphtheria, there is a danger inherent in this very achievement. This is that the general public may be lulled into a sense of false security and may neglect to avail itself of the protective vaccinations which have brought about the high state of immunity which the country now enjoys. There are, indeed signs that this is actually occurring in some places.

It is gratifying to report that no case of poliomyelitis has occurred. The vaccination campaign is gaining impetus and there is reason to believe that, not only in the United Kingdom, but throughout the world, poliomyelitis is beginning to lose its grip. Now that protective vaccination is so widely available it cannot be too strongly urged that it should not be neglected by adults. Age confers no immunity.

3. Detection and prevention of Tuberculosis

As in former years Tuberculin skin testing was carried out on all children attending primary county schools in the district and also on children aged 13 years. Thirteen-year-old children were offered - when suitable - B.C.G. vaccination and the total number of children so vaccinated in the Combined Districts was 213.

4. Smallpox Vaccination

During the year all Medical Officers of Health throughout the country were advised by the Ministry of Health that it was inadvisable to vaccinate infants under 1 year old. This is a departure from the usual procedure by which it was customary to offer this to infants of 6 weeks old and over.

It is essential that all who work in such establishments as hospitals, laboratories and laundries should be fully protected against smallpox. This also applies to local authority staffs and ambulance personnel who may come into contact with the disease.

5. International Vaccination Certificates

International certificates of vaccination were authenticated during the year as follows:-

Smallpox	113
Cholera	12
Typhoid	7

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water

Since the South West Devon Water Board took over the responsibility some local sources of supply have been abandoned, viz., Filaton Adit, River Dart source and pumping station, Follaton Springs, Adit and pumping plant in grounds of Follaton House. All of these are replaced by water from Tristford Reservoir (River Avon supply) which now supplies three quarters of the Borough. The remaining quarter being supplied from Bowden Reservoir, spring and Avon water, which is chlorinated. All these areas are regularly sampled for bacteriological examination and the results continue to be satisfactory. The Avon source of supply is regularly examined both for Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations with satisfactory results. The water is not plumbo solvent.

The fluoride content of the water is less than 0.1 p.p.m.

Approximately 5,880 persons living in 1,864 dwellings were supplied with water from the public mains during the year. There were two houses supplied from public mains by means of stand pipes. Fifteen dwellings had their own private water supply.

2. Sewage disposal

The Consultants responsible for the new disposal works scheme have been engaged to carry out a survey of the existing system of public sewers, the results of which will provide the information required for the design for a new sewerage system in the Borough.

3. Refuse

All refuse in the Borough is now disposed of at Mockwood Quarry. During the months of July and August there were many complaints with regard to flies. Multitudes of flies were present at Mockgood Quarry. Negotiations took place with the owner's agents who agree that control by burning of the refuse could take place together with regular spraying with a safe insecticide. This treatment achieved complete control.

4. Public Conveniences.

Complaints were made to the Town Clerk and myself about the state of cleanliness at the Public Conveniences. Inspections however proved that this was not due to non-cleaning by the Borough Staff, but could be attributed to certain sections of the general public. The only remedy would appear to be the provision of a full time attendant as mentioned in the last Annual Report.

5. Rodent Control

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, this Authority must as far as practicable ensure that the area is kept free from rats and mice. The Rodent Operator, who is shared by this Council, the Totnes Rural District Council and the Ashburton Urban District Council, has carried out his duties successfully and there are no cases of particular note which require comment.

6. Common Lodging Houses

There is no common lodging house in the town.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There are forty-six Food Premises in the Borough this includes eleven cafes and hotels all of which were visited during the year.

The general standard is still not high although there has been some improvement during the year.

Many of the food premises in the town lack an adequate water supply, over half have only one washing unit and in many cases this is coupled with the toilet arrangements, this situation does not allow for staff to wash as frequently as possible nor for the efficient cleaning of equipment.

During this year a number of notices have been sent to food premises to ensure that clotted cream displayed was properly covered, this has been reasonably successful. It was also suggested that a notice be displayed to try and discourage smoking in food shops; this together with the previous years' notice on forbidding dogs entry has been a complete failure, not making any impression on either the public or shop keepers.

There is still the great need for education of all food handlers in hygienic food practices.

1. Slaughterhouses

There are still three licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, one being C & T Harris (Calne) Ltd's bacon factory. There has been a gradual improvement of the premises but a high percentage of their staff require a considerable amount of supervision and instruction on hygienic practices.

The other two slaughterhouses are operated by family butchers and it should be considered in the near future as to whether or not their existence is justifiable.

2. Details of food surrendered and carcasses inspected.

Total number of animals slaughtered:-

1,185	cattle
63,542	pigs
1,604	sheep
6	calves

Total carcasses condemned:-

284	pigs
1	sheep
1	cow

Approximately 6% of pigs were infected with T.B.

10% of pigs plucks condemned for various conditions.

1 hind quarter of beef.

3. Food condemned

25 x 10 lb.	Tinned hams.
48 x 12 oz.	Tins of corn beef.
1 x 7 lbs.	Tin of pork luncheon meat.
2 x 10 lbs.	Peaches in water.
1 x 7 lb.	Tin of marmalade.
24 x 12 ozs.	Fruit curry.
24 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Polish strawberries.
12 x 15 ozs.	Spaghetti.
24	Ducks.

SECTION F.

HOUSING

1. Housing Inspection

Twenty-five dwellings were visited, mainly by my predecessor Mr. Ryan, in connection with the allocation of points for council house applications and from time to time recommendations for increased numbers of points were made to the housing department following these visits.

2. Unfit Houses

Official representations were made in respect of two properties which because of their numerous defects were considered unfit for human habitation.

3. Culverdale Estate

The Warden Service appears to be working in a satisfactory manner and during the year the communal lounge was furnished and equipped for use of the residents of the old folks bungalows on the estate.

4. Russell Court Development Scheme

Plans for the above scheme were being prepared by the end of the year and will consist of flats and old persons dwellings.

5. Parkers Barn

Construction on the above Devon County Council sponsored home for the elderly mentally infirm was commenced during the year. The home will accommodate thirty-six people and will comprise single and double bedrooms and the occupants will be cared for by a qualified staff including a Matron and Superintendent.

APPENDIX A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR THE
BOROUGH OF TOTNES IN
THE COUNTY OF DEVON

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted. (5)
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices. (4)	
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	3	-	-
Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	22	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	8	6	-	-
Total	51	31	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Reasonable temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences a) Insufficient, b) Unsuitable or defective. c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August (2)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel) making	2	-	-	-	-	-

